

IRS News Release

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IRS Urges Post April 15 Filers with Extensions to E-File

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WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service reminds taxpayers who have filing extensions that they can e-file their tax returns until October 15.

More than 8.5 million taxpayers are estimated to have tax returns due on August 15 because they requested an automatic extension to file. The IRS estimates that almost 3 million taxpayers will request an additional extension giving them until October 15, 2003. All of these taxpayers can take advantage of IRS e-file.

“IRS e-file is the quick, smart, fast way to get taxes done,” said IRS Commissioner Mark Everson. “Taxpayers receiving refunds can receive them more quickly through IRS e-file especially when they choose the direct deposit option.”

Taxpayers with a balance due can also pay their taxes electronically by scheduling a safe and convenient electronic funds withdrawal from their bank account or pay with a credit card. Taxpayers can also sign up through Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS) to make their payment electronically.

Taxpayers have several ways to e-file. They can use tax preparation software on their own computers. Or they can have a tax professional that offers e-filing prepare and transmit their return. Some taxpayers can still participate in the Free File program and e-file their tax returns for free.

Free File, the tax preparation and electronic filing service, remains available for people who received filing extensions. Free File, which debuted Jan. 16, is a public-private partnership between the IRS and the Free File Alliance, a consortium of tax preparation software companies. Each company sets its own criteria for taxpayer eligibility, generally based on income, age or state residency. Eligible taxpayers are able to prepare and e-file their federal tax returns for free.

Free File must be accessed through www.irs.gov. By April 15, 2003, more than 2.73 million filed their taxes for free through the Free File Program.

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